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Tuesday, February 26, 2019 metro.us | t: MetroPhilly | f: MetroPhilly

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'QUEER EYE'

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JOVAN ALFORD, SPORTS EDITOR

After weeks of rumors and speculation about his future, the Philadelphia Flyers traded right veteran winger Wayne Simmonds to the Nashville Predators for 24-year-old right winger Ryan Hartman and a 2020 fourth-round draft pick on Monday afternoon. The 30-year-old Simmonds spent eight seasons in Philly, scoring at least 25 goals in five of those seasons. As previously mentioned, it was expected that the Flyers were going to move on from the veteran, who will be an unrestricted free agent in the summer. How does this trade impact Philly going forward? And what about Hartman? What can he bring to the Flyers? For more, check out Page 13 and **metro.us.**

Lawsuit: Trump kissed worker without her consent

1 A woman who worked on Donald Trump's presidential campaign sued the president on Monday, accusing him of kissing her without consent before a 2016 rally in Tampa, Florida. Alva Johnson said in the lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court in Florida's Middle District, that the alleged incident was "part of a pattern of predatory and harassing behavior towards women" by Trump. "This accusation is absurd on its face," White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders said in a statement. "This never happened and is directly contradicted by multiple highly credible eyewitness accounts." Trump has denied charges by a number of women who said he had groped and kissed them over a period of years without permission. The lawsuit alleges the encounter occurred inside a campaign RV before a rally on Aug. 24, 2016.

Man receives under-skin chip implant at live show

2 A man volunteered to have a chip inserted under his skin live onstage at a trade fair in Barcelona on Monday, and another man who had already undergone the procedure showed off how he could make a payment with it using his smartphone. Edgar Pons said he decided to have the radio frequency identification chip implanted because it contained credentials to open the door to his house. "It is super, for me, very useful, because I have an automatic house," he said, adding he was further motivated by the fact he could "withdraw it very easily, simply making a little cut and pressing it." As Pons was undergoing the procedure, Alex Rodriguez Vitello, a physicist, engineer, curator and explorer at Barcelona-based technology company Alpha, said: "The chip is the size of a grain of sand or two and it's covered in a material that is biocompatible so our body doesn't degrade it over time."

Jon Stewart joins senators for 9/11 funding

3 Former "Daily Show" host Jon Stewart (C) speaks with New York Sens. Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand and 9/11 first responders, survivors and their families during a press conference on Capitol Hill on Monday to discuss the introduction of the bipartisan Never Forget the Heroes: Permanent Authorization of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund Act and to call for its swift passage.

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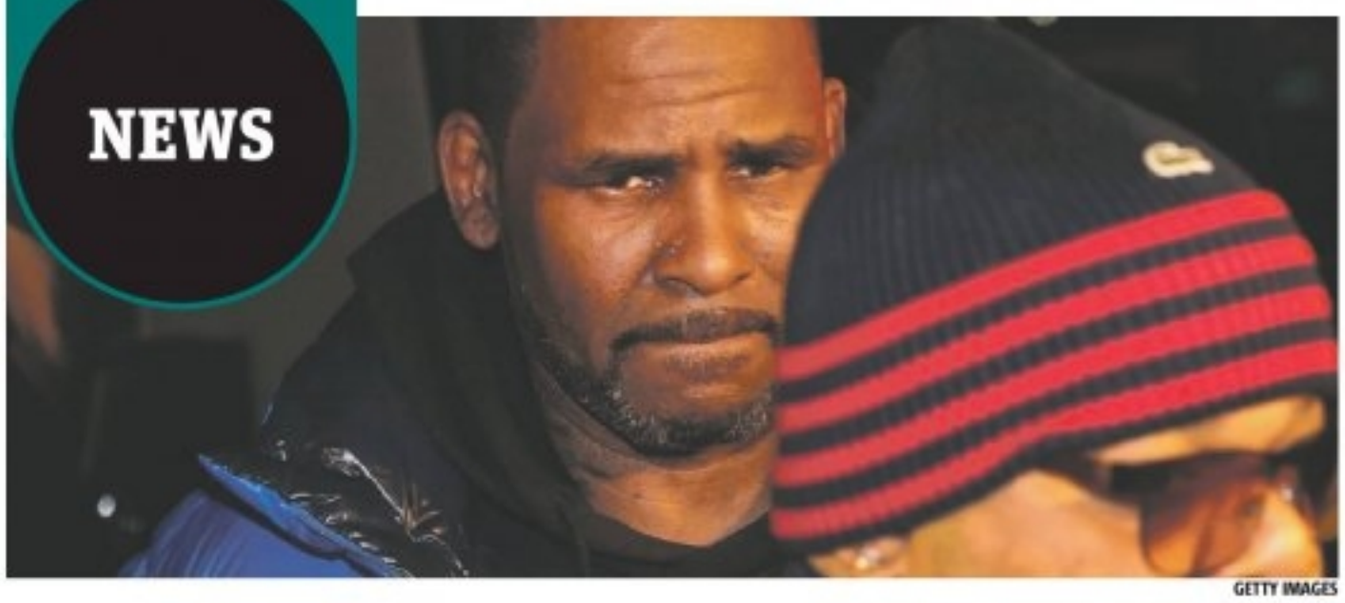
BoA drops 'Merrill Lynch' name in rebranding effort

4 Bank of America Corp. is dropping the "Merrill Lynch" name from some of its businesses, phasing out a brand with a long history on Wall Street as part of a multiyear marketing effort, the lender said on Monday. The investment bank and capital markets business is ditching the 104-year-old name to become BofA Securities and its wealth management businesses will collectively be called Merrill, without the "Lynch." The individual units Merrill Lynch Wealth Management, Merrill Edge and Merrill Guided Investing will keep their names. U.S. Trust, Bank of America's private bank which caters to ultra-high-net-worth clients, will become Bank of America Private Bank, and Merrill Lynch Private Banking & Investment Group will become Merrill Private Wealth Management, dropping the "Lynch." In the past, rebranding has faced some opposition.

Russian TV lists US nuke targets after Putin warning

5 Russian state television has listed U.S. military facilities that Moscow would target in the event of a nuclear strike, and said that a hypersonic missile Russia is developing would be able to hit them in fewer than five minutes. The targets included the Pentagon and the presidential retreat in Camp David, Maryland. The report, unusual even by the sometimes bellicose standards of Russian state TV, was broadcast on Sunday evening, days after President Vladimir Putin said Moscow was militarily ready for a "Cuban Missile"-style crisis if the United States wanted one. With tensions rising over Russian fears that the United States might deploy intermediate-range nuclear missiles in Europe as a Cold War-era arms-control treaty unravels, Putin has said Russia would be forced to respond by placing hypersonic nuclear missiles on submarines near U.S. waters.



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R&B star R. Kelly pleads not guilty to sexually assaulting teens

The Grammy winner was wearing an orange jumpsuit in court.

Grammy-winning R&B star R. Kelly pleaded not guilty on Monday to charges that he sexually assaulted three teenage girls and a woman in alleged incidents dating back to 1998, weeks after a television documentary leveled new accusations against him.

The 52-year-old performer, whose real name is Robert Kelly, is charged under a 10-count indictment with sexually assaulting three teenagers, with each count carrying a maximum of 10 years in prison.

Dressed in an orange jail jumpsuit, Kelly appeared in a Chicago courtroom before Cook County Associate Judge Lawrence Flood and spoke only to confirm his name. His lawyer, Steven Greenberg, entered a not guilty plea on Kelly's behalf.

Later Monday, Kelly walked out of the Chicago jail after posting $100,000 bond, according to reports.

Prosecutors say the victims include a teenager Kelly met when she sought an autograph during his previous trial on child pornography charges, another he met at her 16th-birthday party and his hairdresser, who was then 24. (The singer was acquitted of the pornography charges.)

A fourth charge is based on a videotape that purportedly shows Kelly and a 14-year-old girl engaged in sexual acts, according to prosecutors.

Kelly faced the child pornography charges more than a decade ago, at a trial where the victim did not testify. The new charges have emerged in a different environment, after the #MeToo movement made victims more willing to come forward and law enforcement more likely to believe them.

"Mr. Kelly has done absolutely nothing wrong...No one has showed *[sic]* us any evidence that he has done anything wrong."

Steven Greenberg, lawyer

Michael Avenatti, a lawyer representing two accusers, told reporters after Monday's hearing that he had turned over a second videotape to prosecutors earlier in the day.

The video was about 55 minutes long, dated from around 2000 and also showed a 14-year-old girl, though he did not make clear whether it was the same girl as in the first video.

"Mr. Kelly has done absolutely nothing wrong," Greenberg said. "No one has showed *[sic]* us any evidence that he has done anything wrong."

The charges against the performer came just weeks after the Lifetime television network aired the six-hour documentary series "Surviving R. Kelly," in which multiple women accuse him of sexual misconduct and abuse.

REUTERS

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Activists and family members of inmates discuss impact of not being able to send original copies of personal letters to Pennsylvania inmates during a protest at Gov. Wolf's Philadelphia office on Dec. 18. COURTESY OF DECARCERATE PA

State inmates could soon regain right to private legal mail

However, inmates still will not receive original copies of their personal mail.

SAM NEWHOUSE
sam.newhouse@metro.us

The Pennsylvania Department of Corrections has brokered a settlement with inmate advocates who sued after a controversial system-wide mail and book policy was instituted last year to crack down on drug smuggling into prisons.

Under a tentative agreement reached Feb. 20, to be finalized within two weeks, DOC Secretary John Wetzel announced that inmates will again be allowed to receive their own legal mail starting April 6 — after it has been scanned and examined by prison staff in an "enhanced security screening procedure."

"The DOC respects the right of attorney-client privilege and recognizes the importance of attorney-client relationships," Wetzel said in a statement announcing the agreement. "At the same time, the DOC has a responsibility to ensure that prisons are safe for those who work and live in them. We feel the plan agreed to by the parties meets both of those objectives."

The DOC's controversial mail policy was instituted in September 2018 following a 12-day lockdown on all mail and visits after a rash of reportedly drug-related sicknesses. (The DOC said at least 57 staff were exposed and 33 inmates fell ill due to illegal drugs over the summer of 2018, while just before the lockdown, 12 staff with symptoms of exposure tested positive for synthetic cannabinoids or other drugs.)

Inmates were barred from receiving original copies of their own mail, or books through the mail. The DOC at the time called books and mail "major avenues for drug (and other contraband) smuggling."

Under that policy, legal mail was to be opened by prison staff in front of inmates, with photocopies given to inmates and originals destroyed. DOC officials kept copies of the mail for 45 days.

But inmate advocates called the legal mail policy an unconstitutional violation of inmates' First Amendment right to confidential communications with legal counsel.

Bret Grote, legal director of the Abolitionist Law Center (ALC), called Pennsylvania's legal mail policy "the only one of its kind in the nation." Inmate advocates also argued DOC review of legal mail infringed on inmates' rights to have confidential discussions about "sensitive matters such as medical care and sexual assault," said Alexandra Morgan-Kurtz, a staff attorney at the Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project (PILP).

"We appreciate that the department has agreed that, beginning April 6, they will stop copying and storing prisoners' legal mail," said attorneys from PILP, ALP, the ACLU Pennsylvania Chapter and Abolitionist Law Center in a joint statement. (The groups also filed a companion lawsuit on the same issue on behalf of inmate Davon Hayes, an inmate at State Correctional Institution Smithfield in Huntingdon.) "The revised screening procedures will respect the rights of prisoners to confidential and privileged attorney-client communications without compromising the department's efforts to prohibit drug use in the prisons."

Pennsylvania State Corrections Officers Association (PSCOA) President Jason Bloom said they have not yet received information on what new procedures will be in place for handling legal mail.

"If the new procedures being put into place put any correc-

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tions officer in danger — the department will have another legal fight on its hands," Bloom said via email. "The PSCOA has worked with the administration on implementing the prior policy. ... The steps Pennsylvania took in September should serve as a national example to emulate."

staged rallies over the issue around the holidays.

"We are happy to see that the Department of Corrections is taking steps to roll back their harmful and unconstitutional legal mail policy. However, people in prison are still prohibited from receiving original letters, birthday cards, and photos, and non-

A prisoner gets searched by a guard at Philly's Curran-Fromhold Correctional Center. CHARLES MOSTOLLER

"The revised screening procedures will respect the rights of prisoners to confidential and privileged attorney-client communications without compromising the department's efforts to prohibit drug use in the prisons."

Attorneys from PILP, ALP, the ACLU Pennsylvania Chapter and Abolitionist Law Center

The settlement marks the second concession Pennsylvania prisons have made so far to inmate advocates. While all book donations were previously banned, with only e-books to be allowed in state prisons going forward, the DOC agreed after a widespread outcry to again begin receiving book donations at a centralized facility where they are scanned and checked for contraband.

But the policy regarding personal non-legal mail will remain in place, which requires that personal mail be sent to a private processing center in Florida. Photocopies or scans are forwarded to inmates, while the originals will continue to be destroyed.

Inmate advocates have raised repeated concerns about inmates' inability to have the experience of receiving original mail from their loved ones, and legal mail is still being processed by a private company in Florida," organizers with Decarcerate PA said in a statement. "These policies don't keep drugs out of prisons, they just make it harder for families and communities to stay connected. We are calling on the DOC to repeal these devastating policies in their entirety." The DOC claims that, according to its Drug Interdiction Performance Measures," the policies have been working — with drug finds, positive drug tests, drug-related misconduct and inmate overdoses all occurring at rates lower than the one-year average leading up to the changes.

All non-legal mail to Pennsylvania DOC inmates must now be sent to:

Smart Communications/PA
DOC Inmate Name/Inmate Number
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Image of a Bible sent to a Pennsylvania prison with 57 suboxone strips provided as evidence of drug smuggling into prisons. COURTESY OF PA DOC

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Does Dilworth Park need a new Starbucks?

The proposed construction in coffee shop-rich City Hall has stirred up controversy.

MICHAEL BUTLER
letters@metro.us

Starbucks is arguably the biggest coffee chain in the world, with multiple locations already in Center City, but the proposed addition of an 11th Starbucks within walking distance of City Hall has created a controversy.

A coffee kiosk run by Dilworth Park Café operator Brûlée Catering is planned to be branded as a Starbucks location and carry Starbucks products in accordance with Brûlée's franchise agreement.

"There's already a Dilworth Park-themed coffee shop on the other end of the park," Benner wrote on his blog. "And there's a [Philly-founded coffee shop] La Colombe mere feet away from where they're building this Starbucks!"

There's also a Temple University Starbucks right across 15th Street from Dilworth Park — and more than a dozen other Starbucks locations within blocks of City Hall.

Amy Boguszewski is a barista at La Colombe and did not seem to be concerned about a rival coffee shop opening nearby in Center City. "I think a lot of people do care about supporting their local industry," Boguszewski told CBS 3. "So I'm just glad that the city is conscious of that and I don't think we'll really be affected."

For Benner, use of

"There's already a Dilworth Park-themed coffee shop on the other end of the park. And there's a [Philly-founded coffee shop] La Colombe mere feet away from where they're building this Starbucks!"

Conrad Benner, local artist and founder of Streets Dept

Center City District President and CEO Paul R. Levy supports the cafe's addition to Dilworth Park. "This project is providing a new amenity to the southern end of the park, helping further activate the area and buffer the park from heavy traffic volumes on south Penn Square," Levy said in an announcement of the project.

But local artist Conrad Benner of photoblog Streets Dept was highly disturbed by the addition of yet another Starbucks to the Center City landscape. "There's already a Dilworth Park-themed

space at Center City's hub of community activity could be better served in other ways. "I can think of so many better things to build on this tiny parcel of land, if the goal of this addon was to better serve Philadelphians," Benner wrote. "Things like playground equipment for all the kids who enjoy the park to use. Or how about a mini-public library with select community-related services. Or even free-standing mural walls to feature rotating murals by local artists."

The new coffee stand is expected to open in April.

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Oscar ratings improve slightly after dismal 2018: Reports

The U.S. television audience for the first hostless broadcast of the Academy Awards in 30 years rose slightly from last year based on preliminary tallies, according to reports from Hollywood trade publications on Monday.

Awards shows remain one of the few must-see live events and their ratings are closely watched by advertisers as streaming shows, movies and other content compete for watchers' attention. Though dwarfed by the Super Bowl, the Oscars are often one of America's most-watched non-sporting events.

Final audience numbers for the 2018 telecast on Walt Disney Co.'s ABC had been the Oscars' lowest ever. ABC owns broadcast rights for the Oscars through 2028.

Early metered market ratings for the 3-hour 20-minute telecast on Sunday were higher than comparable preliminary Nielsen results last year, Variety, The Hollywood Reporter and Deadline Hollywood reported.

Comedian Kevin Hart withdrew from the hosting job in December after past homophobic tweets resurfaced. It was only the second time the show went without a host in its 91-year history.

This year's ceremony dispensed with its traditional opening monologue skewering celebrities and politicians, instead relying heavily on the two music-themed contenders in the Best Picture race to help set the tone.

The telecast, which ran about 40 minutes shorter than the 2018 program, had a 20.1 rating in metered market households, up roughly 6 percent from 18.9 last year, Variety said. ABC will report updated numbers later on Monday.

The Nielsen data for the Oscars does not include viewing of the Oscars on digital and mobile platforms.

In 2018, the live Oscars show averaged 26.5 million total viewers, a record low and down from 32.9 million in 2017.

The 2019 Oscars were a win for films telling stories from a range of racial and cultural perspectives, marking a major shift three years after the industry's top awards show was slammed for overlooking work by nonwhite artists.

Road trip movie "Green Book" triumphed over "Roma" to win the Best Picture Oscar.

The audience for this year's Super Bowl, by far the most-watched American event of the year, drew 98.2 million viewers on CBS Corp.'s television network, down about 5 percent from last year's game and its smallest audience since 2009.

But the U.S. audience for this year's Grammy Awards on CBS rose slightly to 19.9 million. CBS said many millions more watched part of the highest honors in the U.S. music industry, or interacted, on social media. REUTERS

People walk past an Oscars sign near the red carpet area. GETTY IMAGES

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— **Anonymous, *Metro US reader***

WALKING UP SUBWAY STAIRS
What I can't understand is that most people can't chew bubblegum and walk at the same time; now, they're trying to read their phone messages/text while walking up the subway stairs, slow and unsteady. Not to mention, what can be so important that can't wait until you reach the top of the stairs?

Perhaps we now need laws preventing people from walking and texting/reading, like what's in effect for drivers. Have we become a "digitalization nation"? Too stupid to do just the basic functions in life without a phone? Unbelievable!!
— **Anonymous, *Metro US reader***

BLOW YOUR NOSE INTO A TISSUE!
What is with these people who blow their noses through their fingers — sans handkerchief — onto the sidewalk?

Disgusting! Not only do they spread their germs onto the sidewalk, but heaven help you if they shake your hand or squeeze the peaches on the fruit stand. There oughta be a law!!
— **Anonymous, *Metro US reader***

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries Expand your knowledge and think about the wisest ways to invest your money and time. Look for prospects that will benefit you, not someone else.

Taurus Refuse to let the drama going on around you slow you down or interfere with your productivity. If you stay focused, you will reap the rewards.

Gemini Be careful whom you trust. If someone paints a picture and makes a promise that tempts you, make sure you fully understand what you are getting into before you take part.

Cancer You've got this. Trust and believe in your skills, experience and knowledge to move forward with confidence. Participate in what works for you, not in what someone wants you to do.

Leo Look around you and consider who your friends are. If someone is trying to tempt you to do something indulgent, be strong and know enough to decline.

Virgo Think before you say something derogatory. Focus your criticism inward and work on being and doing your best. Make health and fitness priorities.

Libra Home improvements can be made, but first get the go-ahead from anyone who will be affected by the changes you make. Stay within budget to avoid criticism.

Scorpio Follow your heart and your dreams. Do things your way and put your energy into revamping your current living situation to suit your personality and lifestyle. Romance is in the stars.

Sagittarius Emotional confusion will set in if you believe everything you hear. Keep your thoughts and feelings secret, and focus on activities geared toward personal improvements, physical outlets and a healthier mindset.

Capricorn Make physical changes at home that are conducive to getting things done. Clearing a workspace or getting rid of items you no longer need or use is a good place to start.

Aquarius Look at all sides of an issue before you comment. If you act in haste, you will regret it. Refuse to let your emotions take charge and cause you to overreact.

Pisces Refuse to let emotions take charge. If you show someone that you are vulnerable, you can expect to be taken advantage of. Be strong and do your own thing. EUGENIA LAST

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Going for gold

Jonathan Van Ness hits the stage in Philly this week

MOLLY GIVEN
Molly.Given@metro.us

Van Ness hits the stage Feb. 28. MATT MONATH

Television personality Jonathan Van Ness wears many hats: he skyrocketed to fame with his role on Netflix's hit series "Queer Eye," gained a strong audience base for his podcast "Getting Curious" and cemented his status as an impressive comedian with his Emmy-nominated web series "Gay of Thrones." Now, the Illinois native is going for gold — literally. Van Ness' "Road to Beijing" comedy tour is inspired by his current quest to become a figure-skating prodigy in time for the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing. Van Ness chatted with Metro about what to expect at his "Road to Beijing" show on Feb. 28 at Tower Theater.

You're a hairdresser, television and web personality, stand-up comedian and also going for gold in the skating world. What motivates you to always reach for more?
My eternal desire to learn. Because I love to learn, this keeps me evolving and wanting to do more.

What has been the most fulfilling and the most difficult part of this incredible journey that you've been on?
The most difficult part is finding a way to balance my love of entertaining and working all the time with my love of self-care and my homebody-ness. I'm not complaining at all, because I love being onstage and entertaining people so much, but sometimes mommy just needs a little break with her cats. But the most fulfilling part is hearing from people who are fans of my comedy, my podcast, "Queer Eye," "Gay of Thrones," or even just people who love my ice skating Instagram content, and hearing that I've made them happy or made them laugh or improved their lives in some way. That part is beyond my wildest dreams.

What can audiences in the Philly area expect when they attend your comedy stand-up "Road to Beijing"?
A fly-by-the-seat-of-your-pants good time! Some Cirque du so-gay, some off-ice training moments, some yoga moments, and it will always feature two other strong comedians with either a female or LGBTQ perspective. It's all-new material, and the Philly show is the show that's kicking off the whole tour, so all of this will be brand-new and fresh and so exciting. I'm really going for gold!

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Kal Penn's new show is like 'a New York Times article with jokes'

The actor talks hosting Amazon's "This Giant Beast That is the Global Economy."

ANDREW HUSBAND
drew.husband@metro.us

Though best known for films like "Van Wilder" and the "Harold & Kumar" series, actor Kal Penn has led a rather eclectic career as of late. He took time off from Hollywood to work for President Barack Obama's administration, then returned to acting on shows like "Designated Survivor." Now he's the host of a new topical documentary series on Amazon Prime.

The show, titled "This Giant Beast That is the Global Economy," features Adam McKay and Will Ferrell as executive producers and follows Penn along a series of interviews and field pieces meant to explain things like money laundering, rubber and artificial intelligence. The actor has hosted television shows and short documentaries before, but as he recalls to Metro, he almost turned down the chance to do "This Giant Beast."

"They reached out to me about a year ago," says Penn. "They said they were making a show about the global economy and were looking for a host. I told them they probably thought I was a lot smarter than I was in real life. I know nothing about the economy. There's no way I could host this show. But it turns out that's exactly what they wanted. They said they were looking for somebody with a natural curiosity that doesn't nec-

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essarily understand how these things work. They told me I was perfect, which made me think, 'Wait, are you calling me dumb?'"

"This Giant Beast's" producers weren't calling Penn dumb, of course, and once he signed on to host the show, he quickly realized just how much work was being put into it behind the scenes. Many of the topics for the series' eight episodes had already been chosen, and the producers were hard at work researching the finer details and securing interviews with noted experts. All Penn had to do was lead the charge on camera and interact with the various people who had agreed to participate.

Penn acknowledges, though, that the show is yet another instance of "infotainment." More often than not, the word is used to pejoratively describe film and television programs that educate audiences via entertaining means. But with similarly hybrid reality and documentary programs like "Patriot Act with Hasan Minhaj" and "Adam Ruins Everything," "This Giant Beast" is in good company.

"This is a show that is not a documentary series and not a reality show," he says. "It exists in this weird middle space between the two. Some people probably don't enjoy this kind of storytelling, as they'd rather watch something like 'CBS Sunday Morning,' which I'm a big fan of. The kinds of programs that present all the information to you and try to make you feel good. It's not as sardonic our show might be sometimes. But that's what I find so exciting and curious about shows like 'This Giant Beast.' It's like a New York Times article with jokes."

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How 'Crazy Rich Asians' changed the movie industry

Mega producer James Lopez talks us through the impact of the romantic comedy.

GREGORY WAKEMAN
GregoryWakeman@metro.us

"Crazy Rich Asians" changed the game. WARNER BROS.

2018 was the ultimate proof that diversity in movies isn't just good for society, but it's actually profitable, too.

Not only did "Black Panther" become a culture phenomenon, but "Crazy Rich Asians" basically rejuvenated the romantic-comedy genre all on its own. While its haul of $174.5 million was only the 17th-highest-grossing movie of the year domestically, it was also the most successful rom-com of the last 10 years and the first film with a predominantly Asian-American cast in 25 years.

Its opening weekend haul of $35 million was $15 million more than even the loftiest of projections. But, in terms of box office, the most startling statistics came after this period, as its gross dropped just 6 percent in its second week, and then 10 percent in its third week. These were unprecedented numbers, and immediately made other Hollywood producers stand up and notice.

"I hadn't seen a movie do that in a long time," explains producer James Lopez, who didn't work on "Crazy Rich Asians," but did produce 2016's "Girls Trip," which followed a very similar path to box office glory.

Lopez believes that the success of "Crazy Rich Asians" will finally make Hollywood recognize the power of diverse casts.

"People want to see themselves in a good film. It shouldn't be a surprise that when you have the combination of a good film with a diverse cast, that not only do people from that community support it, but the general market supports it, too," says Lopez. "At the end of the day, a good movie is a good movie, no matter who is in it. Obviously you have to account for star power when it comes to box office success. But you're able to create a cultural movement when you cast a film a certain way. And that is what 'Crazy Rich Asians' was. It was a movement."

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Flyers trade Wayne Simmonds to Nashville for Hartman, draft pick

The Predators were one of the teams who showed interest in the veteran winger last month.

JOVAN ALFORD
jovan.alford@metro.us

After helping the Philadelphia Flyers defeat the Pittsburgh Penguins on Saturday night in comeback fashion at Lincoln Financial Field, veteran winger Wayne Simmonds will be playing elsewhere to finish out this season.

According to Pierre LeBrun of The Athletic, the Flyers traded Simmonds to the Nashville Predators in exchange for 24-year-old Ryan Hartman and a 2020 fourth-round draft pick on Monday. However, it can become a third-round pick if Nashville wins one playoff round.

It came down to the wire as the deal was completed at 2:57 p.m. ET, just three minutes before the league's official deadline.

LeBrun initially reported in January about the Predators' interest in the 30-year-old Simmonds. Earlier on Monday, John Shannon of Sportsnet reported that the Flyers were looking for a first-round pick and a prospect in exchange for Simmonds.

But that might've been too high of a price tag for many teams as the Winnipeg Jets traded their valuable first-round pick and young left winger Brandon Lemieux in exchange for second-line center Kevin Hayes from the New York Rangers.

Simmonds, who is in the final year of his deal, has 16 goals and 11 assists for 27 points in 62 games for Philadelphia. Over his eight-year career with the Flyers, the Scarborough, Ontario, native had 187 goals and 164 assists for 351 points.

His best season in Philly came in 2015-16, which was the same year Simmonds made the All-Star team. In that season alone, the 6-foot-2 winger scored a career-high 32 goals and dished out 28 assists for 60 points.

With all that being said, Simmonds now heads to a Predators team that is currently in fourth place in the Western Conference with 77 points, though they are nipping at the heels of the third-place Jets.

In regards to the Flyers, they are getting a young right winger who could essentially replace Simmonds. This season with the Predators, Hartman has 10 goals and 10 assists for 20 points in 64 games. He also has a plus-7 rating, playing 13:26 minutes per game.

Unlike Simmonds, who will be an unrestricted free agent, the former first-round pick will be a restricted free agent in the summer. This means the Flyers can match any contract offer that another team sends Hartman's way.

Even though Flyers general manager Chuck Fletcher could not strike a huge deal for Simmonds, they did get something of value in return. It shall be interesting to see how the Flyers maneuver through the rest of the season and what they do in another pivotal offseason.

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Over half of US pushing for legal sports betting

There has been little pushback on legalization overall.

MATT BURKE

Matt Burke is a veteran sports journalist and the Founder and Editor in Chief of MetroBet.

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It has not even been a year since the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that individual states could legalize sports betting and for the most part, things are moving quickly across the country. There are currently eight states where sports betting is legal, two that have had bills pass and 18 that have had bills introduced. That's 28 states that are already betting or are getting close — over half the country.

"It's so unpredictable because ultimately the decision to regulate sports betting is in the hands of each state's legislature," DraftKings CRO and co-founder Matt Kalish told MetroBet in an exclusive interview. "So these states have a lot of different priorities but [sports betting] is one of them. It's really high on the list now. If you look at New Jersey, the results have been fantastic."

Pennsylvania is right at the heart of the legal sports betting movement as it is physically surrounded by states that are legal or close to legal. New Jersey is there. West Virginia is there. D.C. has passed a bill to legalize. New York, Maryland and Ohio are close.

The fact that Pennsylvania is surrounded by so many sports betting-friendly states — particularly New Jersey, which was six months ahead of most — may be contributing to why Pennsylvania's initial numbers may not be as gaudy as New Jersey's.

Many people in Pennsylvania are also simply waiting for the online aspect to kick in. New Jersey mobile has been up and running for months and DraftKings is set to launch its online app in West Virginia any day now.

"We're really optimistic [with new states emerging in 2019]," Kalish said. "We've been focusing on the education of it. Making sure regulators and legislators understand what the product is and that we're protecting consumers. There are still a lot of people betting on the black market, which is totally unprotected right now, so we're showing them that DraftKings is a much safer way to play."

TWEET OF THE DAY

Darren Rovell
@darrenrovell

DraftKings says the largest betting win on the Oscars at its sports book was a bettor who placed a $500 bet on Green Book to win Best Picture.

Netted $2,375.

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Sports betting 101: The magic of **parlays**

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Six-team parlays on point spreads or Over/Unders pay anywhere from 40/1 to 45/1 depending on where you're betting them.

Betting moneylines in parlays can change the payouts dramatically in one direction or another. A six-team parlay using favorites at -200 on the moneyline (about a five-point favorite in point spread terms) would only return 10/1. A six-team parlay using +200 underdogs (around +6 in point spread terms) would return more than 700/1.

These dynamics are important to think about in the month of February because pundits and casual bettors start talking about futures prices to win the NCAA Tournament. Some high-profile teams look like they offer value at 15/1 or 20/1. It's easy to spot sleepers at 50/1 where you're thinking, "Hey, they're better than THAT!" And, there's always somebody down around 200/1 or 300/1 that has some talent and could get hot and catch a few breaks.

Picking a team to win the National Championship is basically asking them to win a six-team moneyline parlay for you. Your team gets parlayed with itself round by round. Two games the first weekend, two games the next weekend through the Sweet 16 and Elite 8, and then the national semifinals and finals. Most invitees have to go 6-0, though the relative handful stuck in "play-in" games have to win seven times (which hasn't happened yet, and may not ever).

You can simulate the power of a parlay by backing your selected team to win outright each round (which is what they HAVE to do to win the national title). After each game, fully re-invest your initial stake and profit. Keep rolling it over, game by game. If your choice DOES go 6-0, you'll be grateful you bet it this way rather than on the futures board. If it doesn't, you lose the same initial stake. **JEFF FOGLE**

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Betting keys to the NBA's stretch run

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With the stretch run of the NBA season upon us, bettors are focusing on the fascinating battle to represent the Eastern Conference in the NBA Finals.

Four virtual co-favorites are given roughly equal chances on the futures board. It's anybody's game amongst Philadelphia, Toronto, Milwaukee and Boston. Two of those will be squaring off Tuesday in a high-profile national telecast when the Celtics visit the Raptors (TNT, 8 p.m.).

Let's take a quick look at the "market story" for the "big four."

PHILADELPHIA currently trails Indiana in the race for the No. 3 seed, but neither the market nor media pundits are giving the Pacers much of a chance to matter in a few months. The Sixers appear to have turned The Process into perennial playoff appearances with their talented young roster. But, this team is also down units for investors this season, stumbling around 47 percent thus far. Philly needs to close at a 70 percent straight-up clip to threaten its projected win total of 53.5. Good, but not as good as expected.

TORONTO has been a surprising money-burner all season. Sunday's lethargic home loss to Orlando dropped the Raptors to 26-35 ATS. That's just 43 percent vs. the number, and is 26 and 38.5 in real money terms because of the 10 percent vigorish charged to loss bets. If Kawhi Leonard and key teammates are healthy in the postseason, the Raptors are still championship material. Be careful investing until then. Toronto must close 12-9 straight up to match its win expectation of 56.

GETTY IMAGES

MILWAUKEE is currently on pace to be the No. 1 seed. The composite wisdom of oddsmakers and sharp betting influences has largely missed the boat on the Bucks, who have been covering near a 60 percent clip all season. Milwaukee will soon pass its projected Regular Season Win Total of 48.5. Giannis Antetokounmpo is getting well-deserved consideration for league MVP, carrying this spirited group well past expectations on his broad shoulders.

BOSTON, after a stunning Saturday night loss at lowly Chicago, must now finish 22-0 to match its projected win total of 59(!). The market did adjust quickly to less-than-expected form, though, with the Celtics sitting at 31-29 ATS for the season. While better than 50 percent, it's below break-even because the vig turns 29 losses into 31.9 for bettors. Quite a story developing with questionable chemistry under Kyrie Irving's leadership. Boston is in danger of settling for a No. 5 seed, which means missing out on home court advantage in the first round.

An interesting mix of quality and question marks for bettors. Is Milwaukee ready to thrive when opponents finally bring peak intensity every game? Can Leonard help Toronto overcome its spotty playoff history? Is Philadelphia's personnel puzzle about to fit together at just the right time? And, is there finally a mess that Brad Stevens can't think his way out of?! JEFF FOGLE

Sports on TV Highlights

7:00 pm	**NHL Hockey** Buffalo Sabres vs. Philadelphia Flyers	NBC Sports Network
7:00 pm	**NHL Hockey** Pittsburgh Penguins vs. Columbus Blue Jackets	ESPN+
7:00 pm	**Men's CBB** Duke Blue Devils vs. Virginia Tech Hokies	ESPN
8:00 pm	**NBA Basketball** Boston Celtics vs. Toronto Raptors	TNT
9:00 pm	**Men's CBB** Temple Owls vs. Memphis Tigers	ESPNU
10:30 pm	**NBA Basketball** Oklahoma City Thunder vs. Denver Nuggets	TNT

Flyers and Sabres betting preview

The Philadelphia Flyers (29-26-7) will try to avoid an emotional letdown after a 4-3 overtime win in Saturday's Stadium Series clash with the Penguins when they host the Buffalo Sabres (29-24-8) on Tuesday night. Buffalo boasts a solid 22-8 puckline record in road contests this year, but they are just 11-19 straight-up as the visiting team this season. The totals market should yield the best betting opportunity here.

Expected starting netminders Carter Hutton (16-17-4, 2.76 GAA, .912 save percentage) and Brian Elliott (7-7, 2.54 GAA, .917 save percentage) will probably see a great deal of enemy shots in this tilt. The Sabres have averaged 34 shots per game over their last five contests, but have surrendered an average of 33 per game. The Flyers have averaged just over 30 shots per game in the same span but allowed a ghastly 38.2.

Carter Hart, expected to miss another week with a lower body injury, won't be around to make up for Philly's defensive inefficiencies.

The Flyers' snipers were in top form on Saturday night, with right winger Jakub Voracek accumulating a team-high three points and centers Sean Couturier and Claude Giroux adding two points each. Sabres center Sam Reinhart is fresh off a hat trick against the Capitals on Saturday.

Prediction: Flyers win, 4-3

The play: Sabres vs. Flyers Over

ROBERT CRISCOLA

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NHL

BUFFALO SABRES VS. PHILADELPHIA FLYERS -155

PITTSBURGH PENGUINS VS. COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS -130

NBA

BOSTON CELTICS VS. TORONTO RAPTORS -3.5

OKLAHOMA CITY THUNDER VS. DENVER NUGGETS -3

ORLANDO MAGIC -5.5 VS. NEW YORK KNICKS

MEN'S CBB

TEMPLE OWLS VS. MEMPHIS TIGERS -4.5

DUKE BLUE DEVILS -7 VS. VIRGINIA TECH HOKIES

Dodgers join Phillies in pursuit of Harper

GETTY IMAGES

It appears as if we will have to wait a little bit longer for Bryce Harper's decision. Jesse Sanchez of MLB.com reported on Monday that the Los Angeles Dodgers have jumped into the Bryce Harper sweepstakes.

Over the weekend, it was reported by multiple outlets that Harper would sign a 10-year deal with the Phillies either Monday or today.

However, with the Dodgers and San Francisco Giants in the mix, Bob Nightengale of USA Today reported on Monday that Harper's decision is expected to come this week. JOVAN ALFORD

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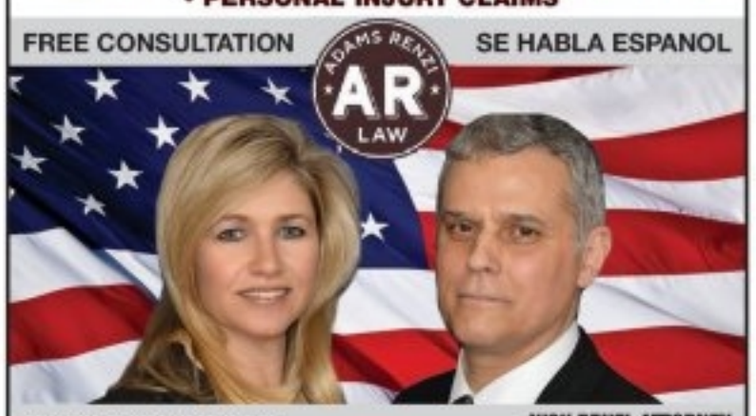

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The Balancing Act Project: Improving Weight Loss Outcomes for Binge Eating Behaviors

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The treatment will take place weekly at Drexel University. The treatment consists of **25 group sessions over one year**, and there is a follow-up assessment one year after treatment ends.

Contact us:
CALL (267) 359-6289
EMAIL EDResearch@drexel.edu
COMPLETE a short survey at
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Opportunities Industrialization Center

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Culinary Arts - 16 weeks

Housekeeping - 9 weeks

Front Office - 9 weeks

START DATE: Monday, March 4th, 2019
APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 1st, 2019
CLASS DAYS & TIME: Monday - Friday • 8:30am - 2:45pm
CONTACT: Mrs. Council-Grant, Admissions Specialist
215.236.7700 (ext. 325)
LOCATION: 1231 N. Broad Street, 4th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19122

REQUIREMENTS:

- Must bring your **High School Diploma/Transcript or GED**
- Must bring a **Valid State ID** (school ID not permitted)
- PA/DE & NJ Residents are welcome
- Must apply at OIC **Monday - Friday from 9am - 2pm**
- TABE Testing Administered on site
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Interested candidates can call 267-238-3212,
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or online at
www.homecareassociatespa.com

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Are you age 17-21?
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healthcarecareerconnections
This program is sponsored fully or in part by Philadelphia Works, Inc.

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LEGAL NOTICES

Southwest Leadership Academy Charter School

Attention: Food Service Management Companies

Southwest Leadership Academy Charter School is requesting proposals for school food service management services. The Food Service Management Company will provide management services according to United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) regulations and guidelines, as well as the Pennsylvania Department of Education policies and guidelines.

Food Service Management Companies and/or their representatives may submit proposals to:

Southwest Leadership Academy Charter School
In C/O FSMC Contact
7101 Paschall Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19142

The Pennsylvania Department of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all proposals or to accept the proposal that it finds, in its sole discretion, to be in the best interest of the school district.

A walk-through meeting is scheduled 3/8/19 at 2:00 pm at 7101 Paschall Ave. Philadelphia PA, 19142.

All proposals must be submitted no later than insert 2:00 pm due on 3/26/19. All proposals should be delivered in a sealed envelope and addressed to Southwest Leadership Academy Charter School and be clearly marked: Food Service Management Proposal.

Court of Common Pleas for the County of Philadelphia, January term, 2019, No. 0200.

Notice is hereby given that on January 18, 2019, the petition of: Amanda Marie Dickinson, was filed, praying for a decree to change her name to: Amanda Marie DiDio. The Court has fixed court date March 5, 2019, at 10:30 AM, in Room No. 691, City Hall, Phila., PA for hearing. All persons interested may appear and show cause if any they have, why the prayer of the said petition should not be granted.

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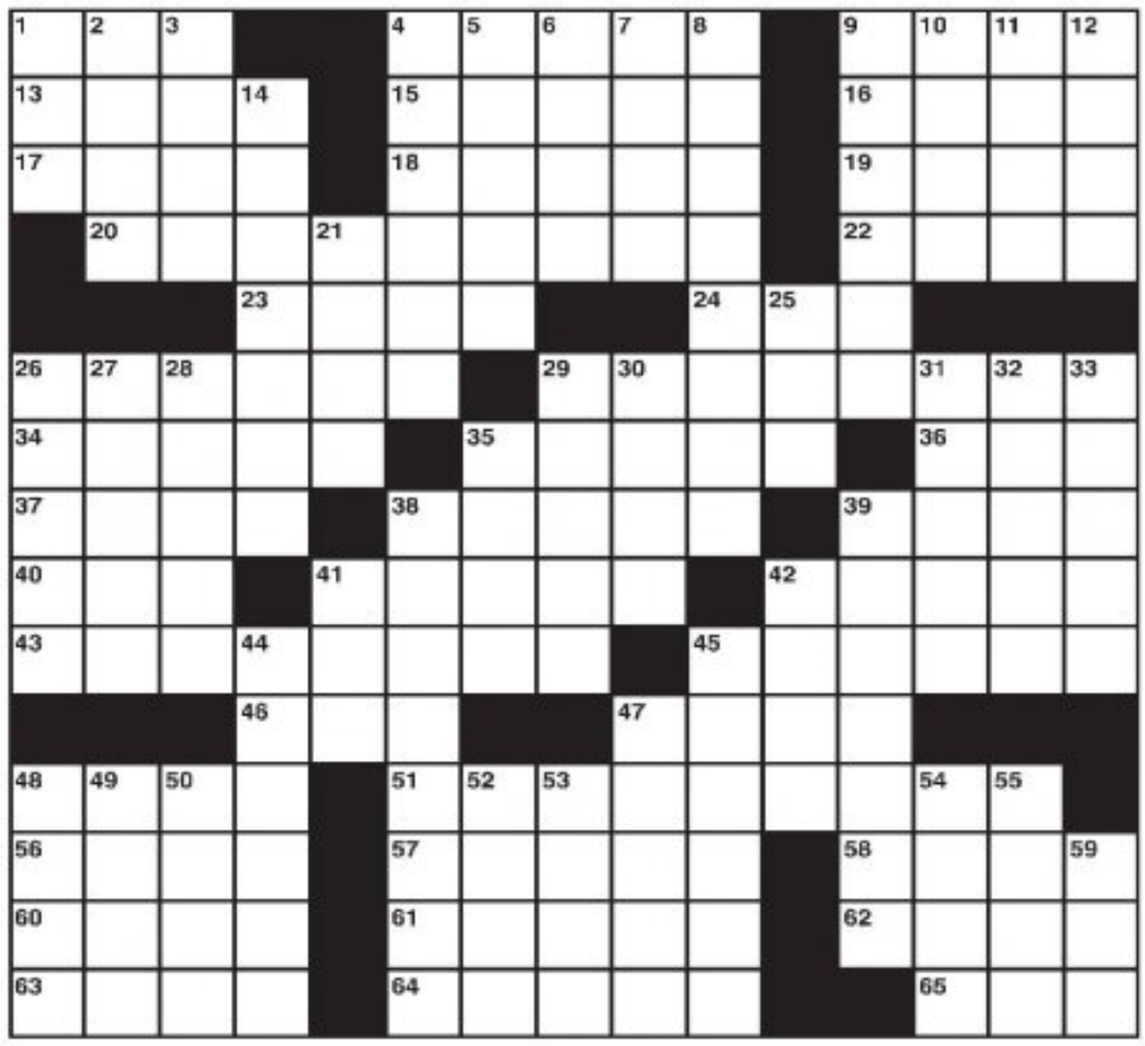

BY TCA

ACROSS

1 Occupation
4 Throbbed painfully
9 Up in __; irate
13 Regrets
15 Transparent
16 Ooze out
17 Part of a wineglass
18 Rib
19 Scorch
20 Forte
22 Friendly nation
23 Plunder
24 J. Edgar Hoover's agcy.
26 1950s teen idol Frankie
29 Clear broth
34 Book leaves
35 Damp
36 Lamb's mother
37 Elderly
38 Cries
39 Window glass
40 Gallop
41 Bodies of water
42 Didn't throw away
43 Restrained with a rope
45 Foyt & Unser
46 Ending for harp or ball
47 Kimono fabric
48 Casual farewell
51 Helper
56 __-the-top; outrageous
57 Part of the face
58 Equipment
60 Perished
61 Rush forward suddenly
62 Apiece
63 Probability
64 Stopped
65 Boxing ref's decision

DOWN

1 Yrbk. section
2 Pitcher's delights
3 Toot the horn
4 "Lights, camera, __!"
5 Shoe bottom ridge
6 Make well
7 Vane direction
8 Actor Richard
9 Attack
10 Virginia __; lively dance
11 Lunch or dinner
12 Agile
14 Reeked
21 Pigeon cries
25 In just a __; soon
26 Take __; undo
27 Obscure; unclear
28 Insurance seller
29 Curtsied
30 Picasso's paints
31 Go away
32 Proprietor
33 Has to have
35 "__ hay while the sun shines"
38 Tiny sea creature with a hard shell
39 Parcel
41 Zodiac sign
42 Table seasoning
44 Stockpiles
45 Took a chance with
47 Prolonged attack
48 Commotion
49 Enthusiastic
50 __ off; angry
52 Have nothing to do with
53 __-off; going-away party
54 "Cool!" in past decades
55 __ on; attach
59 Letter from Greece

metro.us/wordsearch

M	A	N	I	N	B	L	A	C	K
H	Y	E	N	X	Q	A	E	O	W
T	N	X	Z	J	Q	N	C	U	G
Y	N	B	Z	H	I	O	E	N	S
H	H	F	C	L	E	S	I	T	K
R	O	S	E	J	Z	R	P	R	Q
K	J	H	A	C	O	E	I	Y	P
Z	T	F	U	C	O	P	L	F	N
W	A	L	K	R	L	Z	L	O	L
T	S	I	R	A	T	I	U	G	K

Cash
Country
Fire
Guitarist
Hurt
Johnny
Man in Black
Personal
Piece
Rhythm
Ring
Rock
Sue
The Line
Walk

metro.us/wander

Category: Video Game

	N	D	O
R	A	T	T
G	E	H	U
	F	T	A

Trace a path, using every letter once, to find the hidden phrase. Your path can turn in any direction, but not diagonally.

metro.us/sudoku

	4		3	7	1	2		
8	7	5	4		2		3	
			5	9	8		4	
7	3						9	
		2	1		9	3		
	5						6	2
	9		6	1	4			
	2		7		5	6	1	9
		1	9	2	3		7	

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Yesterday's Answers

■	O	N	A	■	S	P	U	D	S	■	S	L	O	W
S	P	E	D	■	H	A	N	O	I	■	H	O	M	E
K	E	G	S	■	U	N	I	M	P	R	O	V	E	D
I	N	A	■	S	T	E	V	E	■	O	V	E	N	S
■	■	T	A	L	U	S	■	■	C	U	E	■	■	■
S	L	I	P	U	P	■	■	L	O	S	S	E	S	■
L	E	V	E	R	■	P	E	A	C	E	■	N	U	T
A	V	I	D	■	P	L	A	Z	A	■	S	T	I	R
Y	E	S	■	G	L	O	R	Y	■	V	E	R	N	E
■	E	M	P	L	O	Y	■	■	R	E	N	E	G	E
■	■	■	R	O	T	■	■	P	A	N	D	A	■	■
C	A	R	O	B	■	F	L	U	I	D	■	T	A	P
A	B	O	V	E	B	O	A	R	D	■	S	I	G	H
B	L	U	E	■	A	R	I	S	E	■	H	E	E	D
S	E	T	S	■	A	D	D	E	R	■	E	S	S	■

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